

Dr. Bela Patel is the Vice Dean of Healthcare Quality and the Division Director for Critical Care Medicine at the McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. She is Vice President and Regional Chief Medical Officer for Memorial Hermann Hospital Texas Medical Center. She also holds the Graham Distinguished University Chair.

Dr. Patel attended the University of Texas in Austin and the University of Texas McGovern Medical School in Houston. She completed her Internal Medicine training in 1996 and subsequently a fellowship in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine in 1999 also at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Dr. Patel was appointed as the Chief of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine in 2002 and later appointed the Chief of Medicine at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital and Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine in 2007. In 2009, she became the Assistant Chief Medical Officer and subsequently Regional Chief Medical Officer in 2017 for Memorial Hermann Hospital Texas Medical Center.

Through her work in Quality and Patient Safety, she was inducted as a Fellow in Clinical Safety and Effectiveness by the University of Texas System. Dr. Patel was appointed as the Assistant Dean of Healthcare quality in 2011 and the Vice Dean in 2017 and supports the 18 Vice Chairs of Quality in Medicine at McGovern Medical School. Dr. Patel's research interest includes ARDS, COVID-19, cognitive complexity and error reduction in critical care, and quality improvement implementation science.